

Message Text

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41

ACTION EB-07

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FM AMCONSUL DOUALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1189

INFO AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

UNCLAS DOUALA 0243

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BGEN

SUBJECT: POST RELATIONSHIPS WITH AMERICAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

REF: STATE 94266

1. SINCE SEVENTY PER CENT COMMERCIAL BUSINESS TRANSACTED DOUALA AND MOST COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISES HEADQUARTERS THIS POST, DOUALA HAS BEEN ASKED RESPOND REFTEL. THIS RESPONSE COORDINATED EMBASSY YAOUNDE.

2. OVER SEVENTY AMERICAN COMPANIES REPRESENTED DOUALA BY SOME FIFTY CAMEROONIAN ENTERPRISES. HOWEVER, MOST LOCAL FIRMS CONNECTED FRENCH AFFILIATES. THEIR PRIMARY PRODUCT LINES IN MOST INSTANCES NOT AMERICAN AND EVEN SOME MULTINATIONALS TEND BUY OOF-SHORE U.S. BRAND NAMES. LAST YEAR CONSULATE ATTEMPTED ASCERTAIN IF ENOUGH LOCAL CONCERN ESTABLISH CAMEROONIAN - AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND DISCOVERED COMMUNITY OF INTEREST NOT SUFFICIENT.

3. AT PRESENT AT LEAST TWO AMERICAN BANKS ATTEMPTING ESTABLISH LOCAL OFFICES. IF AND WHEN THESE EFFORTS SUCCESSFUL, MAY BE APPROPRIATE MOMENT MAKE ANOTHER ATTEMPT ASCERTAIN INTEREST IN CHAMBER AS BANK COULD PROVIDE LOCUS OF INTEREST, IF NOT SECRETARIAT. HOWEVER, DO NOT BELIEVE USEFUL USG PUSH SUCH ENDEAVOR IF LOCAL BUSINESS COMMUNITY NOT WILLING SUPPORT AND CARRY BURDEN ACTIVITIES AND FINANCIAL BACKING.

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THEREFORE, CONSULATE HAS INDICATED WILLINGNESS ASSIST, BUT

NOT INITIATE ESTABLISHMENT CAMEROONIAN - AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

4. ON ANOTHER LEVEL, CONSULATE ENJOYS EXCELLENT RELATIONS CAMEROONIAN GOVT. SPONSORED CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND MINES. LARGELY THEIR COOPERATION AND ACTIVE SUPPORT WHICH INSURED SUCCESS RECENT OPIC WESTAM MISSION (YAOUNDE 1248). THEY PROVIDE USEFUL STATISTIAAL KORMATION AND INDUSTRY LISTS, WHICH OF INVALUABLE ASSISTANCE BUSINESS VISITORS, ADS CONTACTS AND POTENTIAL TOPS. WTDR PREPARATION REQUIRES GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH LOCAL BANKING COMMUNITY. AT PRESENT TIME, THERE NO LOCAL ORGANIZATION WHICH CAN COLLATE INFO REQUIRED PREPARE MEANINGFUL WTDR.

5. CONSULATE AND USIS ATTEMPT INVOLVE LOCAL RPS U.S. COMPANIES AND CHAMBER COMMERCE IN ACTIVE COMMERCIAL-CULTURAL PROGRAMS WHICH BRING PROMINENT AMERICAN SPEAKERS ECONOMIC AND MANAGEMENT

TOPICS DOUALA. THESE INDIVIDUALS ALSO INCLUDED SOCIAL ACTIVITIES HELD IN CONNECTION COMMERCIAL PROGRAM.

MITHOEFFER

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